

ZA6650

**Flash Eurobarometer 428
(Businesses' Attitudes Towards Corruption in the EU)**

**Country Questionnaire
Ireland (English)**

A Flash number

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B Country

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C Interview number

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NACE NACE code (Sample information)

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				NACE code - 4 digits
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SIZE Size of company (Sample information)

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					Size of company
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(INTRO1) Hello, I'm (NAME), calling from Millward Brown. May I speak with your CEO, a general manager, a financial director or any legal officer who has decision-making responsibilities in your company ?

(INTRO2) IF THE GATEKEEPER ASKS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: We are contacting (decision makers in) companies across Europe regarding their views on current business topics. The feedback will be used to support decision-making and design future European policies. I would greatly appreciate being able to speak with him or her to include his/her opinion in the study.

IF THE ELIGIBLE REpondent IS NOT AVAILABLE, PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

(INTRO3) (WHEN SPEAKING TO THE TARGETED RESPONDENTS) Hello, I'm (NAME), calling from Millward Brown, a market research company.

(INTRO4) We are contacting (decision makers in) companies across Europe regarding their views on current business topics and we would greatly appreciate your input. The feedback will be used to support decision-making and design future European policies. Would you have some time to answer to a few questions? It should take between 15 and 20 minutes...

ASK LAN1 ONLY IN BE, EE, FI, IE, LV, LU, MT

LAN1 Would you like to do the survey in English or Irish?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

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Ireland - English	17
Ireland - Irish	18
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ASK ALL

(RESPONDENT REASSURANCE) I would like to reassure you that your co-operation is completely voluntary and all of your answers are confidential. For quality control and training purposes this interview may be monitored or recorded. First I will ask a few questions purely for classification purposes...

Let me start with a few basic questions regarding your company. For all questions, please limit your responses to the activities of your company in Ireland only.

IF D1=7 OR 8 THEN STOP INTERVIEW

D1 What is the main activity of your company?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Energy, mining, oil and gas, chemicals	1
Healthcare and pharmaceutical	2
Engineering and electronics, motor vehicle manufacturing	3
Construction and building	4
Telecommunications and Information technologies	5
Financial services, banking and investment	6
None (DO NOT READ OUT)	7
DK/NA	8

NEW

IF D2=5 AND SIZE=NULL THEN STOP INTERVIEW

D2 How many employees does your company have?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

1 to 9 employees	1
10 to 49 employees	2
50 to 249 employees	3
250 employees or more	4
DK/NA	5

FL347 D2

D3 How long has your company been in business?

(RECORD NUMBER OF YEARS - CODE "999" IF DON'T KNOW/REFUSAL)

Years

FL347 D4

D4 Over the past two years, has your company's annual turnover increased, decreased or remained unchanged?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Increased | 1 |
| Decreased | 2 |
| Remained unchanged | 3 |
| Not applicable (DO NOT READ OUT) | 4 |
| DK/NA | 5 |

FL347 D5

D5 What was your turnover last year?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Less than 100 000 euros | 1 |
| From 100 000 to 500 000 euros | 2 |
| More than 500 000 to 2 million euro | 3 |
| More than 2 to 10 million euro | 4 |
| More than 10 to 50 million euro | 5 |
| More than 50 million euro | 6 |
| Not applicable (DO NOT READ OUT) | 7 |
| DK/NA | 8 |

FL347 D6

ASK ALL

READ OUT: When we mention corruption, we mean it in a broad sense, including offering, giving, requesting and accepting bribes or kickbacks, valuable gifts and important favours, as well as any abuse of power for private gain. Please note, it is important that you consider your answers in the light of your own or your company's experience

Q1 Do you consider the following to be a problem or not for your company when doing business in Ireland?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		A very serious problem	A quite serious problem	Not a very serious problem	Not a problem at all	DK/NA
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1	Corruption	1	2	3	4	5
2	Patronage and nepotism	1	2	3	4	5
3	Complexity of administrative procedures	1	2	3	4	5
4	Fast-changing legislation and policies	1	2	3	4	5
5	Inadequate infrastructure in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5
6	Lack of means or procedures to recover debt from others	1	2	3	4	5
7	Restrictive labour regulations	1	2	3	4	5
8	Tax rates	1	2	3	4	5
9	Access to financing, including credits	1	2	3	4	5

NEW

Q2 In the past three years, has your company taken part in a public tender or a public procurement procedure?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

No	1
Yes, once	2
Yes, more than once	3
DK/NA	4

NEW

ASK Q3 AND Q4 IF "YOUR COMPANY HAS TAKEN PART IN A PUBLIC TENDER OR A PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE" CODE 2 OR 3 IN Q2

Q3 In the last three years, do you think that corruption has prevented you or your company from winning a public tender or a public procurement contract?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Yes	1
No	2
Refusal (DO NOT READ OUT)	3

DK/NA

4

NEW

Q4: NUMBER MUST BE BETWEEN 0 AND 100 OR = 999

Q4 Could you please estimate what proportion of your annual turnover comes from public tenders or public procurement procedures?

(WRITE DOWN THE ANSWER IN PERCENTAGES) (IF REFUSAL/DK/NA CODE "999")

%

NEW

ASK Q3b IF "YOUR COMPANY HAS NOT TAKEN PART IN A PUBLIC TENDER OR A PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE" CODE 1 IN Q2

Q3b: ROTATE ITEMS 1 TO 5

Q3b: ITEM 7 'NONE' IS A SINGLE CODE

INT: If the respondent asks, give the following definition of a collusive bidding: "Collusive bidding is an attempt by conspiring bidders to get round rules and laws laid down to ensure free and competitive bidding, including rules against price-fixing"

Q3b Was it for any of the following reasons?

(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- The criteria seemed to be tailor-made for certain participants
- The deal seemed to be done before the call to tender
- You had the impression that collusive bidding would take place
- The deadlines for submitting the project were too tight and impossible to meet
- The procedure seemed too bureaucratic or burdensome
- Other (DO NOT READ OUT)
- None (DO NOT READ OUT)
- DK/NA

- 1,
- 2,
- 3,
- 4,
- 5,
- 6,
- 7,
- 8,

NEW

ASK ALL

READ OUT: In this questionnaire we refer to public officials. By public officials, we mean employees of public authorities and ministries including government officials, customs officers, policemen, judges, prosecutors, tax officials, etc.; and we also mean local officials, such as housing/building regulators, mayors, local government officers and people working in the local authorities

Q5 A gift from someone in return for a favour may be evidence of his esteem and kindness, but may also qualify as a bribe. If a public official receives money, a gift or a service from someone, what would be the minimum value at which you would consider this to be a bribe?

(WRITE DOWN THE ANSWER) (IF REFUSAL/DK/NA CODE "9999999")

EUROS

NEW

Q6 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in Ireland?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very widespread	1
Fairly widespread	2
Fairly rare	3
Very rare	4
Non-existent (DO NOT READ OUT)	5
DK/NA	6

NEW

Q7: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 TO 8

INT: If the respondent asks, give the following definition of a collusive bidding: "Collusive bidding is an attempt by conspiring bidders to get round rules and laws laid down to ensure free and competitive bidding, including rules against price-fixing"

Q7 And how widespread do you think the following practices are in public procurement procedures in Ireland?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Very wide spread	Fairly wide spread	Fairly rare	Very rare	Non-existent (DO NOT READ OUT)	DK/NA
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1	Abuse of negotiated procedures	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Abuse of emergency grounds to justify use of non-competitive or fast-track procedures	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Involvement of bidders in the design of specifications	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Unclear selection or evaluation criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Conflict of interests in the evaluation of bids	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Specifications tailor-made for particular companies	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Collusive bidding	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Amendments of the contract terms after conclusion of the contract	1	2	3	4	5	6

NEW

Q8 And how widespread do you think the following practices are in Ireland?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Very wide spread	Fairly wide spread	Fairly rare	Very rare	Non-existent (DO NOT READ OUT)	DK/NA
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1	Corruption in public procurement managed by national authorities	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Corruption in public procurement managed by regional or local authorities	1	2	3	4	5	6

NEW

Q9: ROTATE ITEMS 1 TO 6

Q9: ITEM 8 'NONE' IS SINGLE CODE

Q9	Over the last 12 months, has your company been in contact with the public authorities in order to obtain the following permits or to use their services in the following categories?
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(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- | | |
|---|----|
| Building permits | 1, |
| Business permits | 2, |
| Change of land use | 3, |
| Environmental permits including waste and water treatment | |
| Licence plates or permits related to vehicles | 4, |
| State aid and social, structural funds | 5, |
| Other (DO NOT READ OUT) | 6, |
| None (DO NOT READ OUT) | 7, |
| DK/NA | 8, |
| | 9, |

NEW

ASK Q10 IF CODES 1 TO 6 IN Q9

ASK Q10.1 ONLY IF Q9=1

ASK Q10.2 ONLY IF Q9=2

ASK Q10.3 ONLY IF Q9=3

ASK Q10.4 ONLY IF Q9=4

ASK Q10.5 ONLY IF Q9=5

ASK Q10.6 ONLY IF Q9=6

Q10: ROTATE ITEMS 1 TO 6

Q10: CODE 7 IS A SINGLE CODE

Q10	And has anyone in Ireland asked or expected someone from your company to pay a bribe for any of the following permits or services?
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(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- | | |
|---|----|
| Building permits | 1, |
| Business permits | 2, |
| Change of land use | 3, |
| Environmental permits including waste and water treatment | |
| Licence plates or permits related to vehicles | 4, |
| State aid and social, structural funds | 5, |
| None (DO NOT READ OUT) | 6, |
| DK/NA | 7, |
| | 8, |

NEW

ASK ALL

Q11: ROTATE ITEMS 1 TO 7

Q11: ITEM 9 'NONE' IS A SINGLE CODE

INT: If the respondent asks, give the following definition of kickbacks: "Paying back a certain percentage of the contract value or gain to a person who has influence over the contract or who decides which services or goods should be ordered"

Q11 Which of the following practices do you consider to be the most widespread in Ireland?

(READ OUT - MAX. 3 ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Kickbacks	1,
Bribes	2,
Tax fraud or non-payment of VAT	3,
Offering a free gift or trip in exchange for a service	4,
Favouring friends and family members in business	5,
Funding political parties in exchange for public contracts or influence over policy making	6,
Favouring friends and family members in public institutions	7,
Other (DO NOT READ OUT)	8,
None (DO NOT READ OUT)	9,
DK/NA	10,

NEW

Q12: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 TO 6

Q12 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	DK/NA
1	Too close links between business and politics in Ireland lead to corruption	1	2	3	4	5
2	Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5

3	There is sufficient transparency and supervision of the funding of political parties in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5
4	In Ireland the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections	1	2	3	4	5
5	In Ireland favouritism and corruption hamper business competition	1	2	3	4	5
6	In Ireland measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives	1	2	3	4	5

NEW

INT (IF NECESSARY): The second statement includes the mayor of the city/village/municipality

Q13 How widespread do you think bribery or the abuse of power for personal gain are among the following groups in Ireland?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Very wide spread	Fairly wide spread	Fairly rare	Very rare	Non-existent (DO NOT READ OUT)	DK/NA

1	Politicians, party representatives or senior officials at national level	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Politicians, party representatives or senior officials at regional or local level	1	2	3	4	5	6

NEW

Q14 How likely do you think it is that the following would happen to people or businesses engaging in corrupt practices in Ireland?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Very likely	Fairly likely	Fairly unlikely	Very unlikely	DK/NA
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1	They would be caught by or reported to the police or prosecutors	1	2	3	4	5
2	They would be heavily fined or imprisoned by a court	1	2	3	4	5

NEW

Q15 Do you agree or not with the following statements...?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	DK/NA
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1	People and businesses caught for petty corruption are appropriately punished in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5
2	People and businesses caught for bribing a senior official are appropriately punished in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5

NEW